Office of the City Manager Letter to Commission No. 220-2004



Date: August 16, 2004

To:

Mayor David Dermer and

Members of the City Commission

From:

Jorge M. Gonzalez

City Manager

Subject:

UPCOMING FILMING OF STUNT SCENES FOR FEATURE FILM.

"TRANSPORTER 2"

The feature film "Transporter 2" is coordinating the following exciting action scenes for Miami Beach to be filmed next Wednesday, August 18 through Friday, August 20. The film follows a skilled driver mistakenly involved in a kidnap plot who must outrun the police and save the kidnap victim to prove his innocence. The scenes being coordinating for next week are all part of one of the major car chase segments of the film. Our off-duty police and fire units are fully in coordination with the production and will be on hand in great numbers to protect the area and public.

Wednesday, August 18

6AM-2PM: Alleyway (Collins Court) between Collins Avenue and Washington Avenue, from 7 to 10 streets

The scene is of the hero's car eluding police cars through the alley, entering at 7 Street and exiting at 9 Street towards Washington Avenue. The filming of the scene will be broken down into three segments, a block at a time, to minimize inconvenience to the business owners who use the alley. 9 Street will be closed to traffic to allow for the car to reverse from the alley from 9 to 10 Street and spin around to drive north onto Washington. For this segment, police will intermittently control traffic on northbound Washington Avenue. When filming in the other areas, intermittent traffic control will be necessary between Washington and Collins on 7, 8 and 10 streets, but never all at the same time. To maintain safety, intermittent traffic control will also occur on Collins Avenue during takes only.

In addition to police and fire coordination, the production has canvassed the area and received almost unanimous approval for the project. They will park production vehicles at nearby meters with business approvals only. The production will also remind all businesses not to open their back entrances during filming and will offer assistants to stay in the doorways to maintain safety. The production is coordinated with Miami-Dade Transit to reroute the buses on Washington Avenue at 9 Street. Electronic Message Boards will be placed on Collins and Washington starting Monday to advise of delays due to production activity.

12PM-8PM: Washington Avenue and Euclid Avenue, south of 5 Street

This scene involves the hero's car driving south on Euclid Avenue from 5 Street where he is intercepted by police cars at 3 Street. The hero car drives around the police car, heading south on Washington Avenue, where two other police cars pursue from the east side of 3 Street. These three cars continue south on Washington Avenue, turning east onto 1 Street.

For this scene, the production will need to intermittently control all traffic on Washington Avenue from 5 Street to South Pointe Drive, as well as Euclid Avenue from 5 to 3, and 1 through 4 streets on both sides of Washington Avenue. A full police staffing plan will be implemented and the control will be for 3 to 5 minute lengths at a time. Police will also move drivers onto Collins and Meridian during the closure. The production will need to reserve all of the meters in this area to maintain a clear space for picture and to ensure safety. It will not be necessary to close businesses and the production is working with all businesses, as well as the residents, to try to ensure their needs are met.

Thursday August 19 - Friday, August 20, 6AM-8PM: South Pointe Park and Beach/ Washington Avenue south of South Pointe Drive

This scene is a continuation of the chase through South Pointe Park and Beach. The hero's car drives onto the fountain at the south end of Washington Avenue, followed by police cars. The cars turn east and drive on the sidewalk south of the grass lot of the park. The cars continue east of Smith & Wollensky, driving through the park service road and onto the wooded walkway. The vehicles then turn north, with the hero car driving on the hard pack sand at South Pointe and the police cars on the boardwalk. The hero car will turn north onto the access road, heading out of the park, while the police cars will jump through the boardwalk's northern Pointe and crash into the sand.

For this scene, the production will need to intermittently control traffic on Washington Avenue south of South Pointe Drive on only one of the days and for a few hours only. The production will need to completely have the areas of the park they are using to themselves for safety reasons. When they film on the sand, they will need to completely close off the Pier and beach south of 1 Street for safety and to keep a clear picture. The production is reinforcing the walkways and boardwalk and will need to remove and replace a section of the boardwalk. The production is working with all City departments and will replace all elements damaged as a result. Additionally, representatives from various City departments will be on site, as well as an extensive police and fire rescue support team.

For all of these scenes, the production and the City want to assure that public safety is our primary concern. The production will be working directly with the affected residents and businesses to minimize inconvenience and noise disturbances. As this is all daylight filming, all production activity will be completed by 8PM.

I am available if you should have any questions. Furthermore, if you would like to watch any of the scenes being filmed, please contact Max Sklar to schedule and coordinate a mutually convenient time. Max can be reached at ext \$116.

JMG/CMC/MARY

C:

Christina M. Cuervo, Assistant City Manager Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager Max Sklar, Acting Tourism and Cultural Development Director Graham Winick, Film and Print Coordinator

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